

Message Text

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ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 PM-03 L-02 SSO-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9415

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06106

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, WB, GW, US, UK, FR

SUBJECT: BONN GROUP CONSULTATION

REF: A) PARIS 9344; B) BONN 4535; C) STATE 58094

SUMMARY: ALLIED AMBASSADORS HAVE HAD FOLLOWUP DISCUSSION, ON THE BASIS OF INSTRUCTIONS, ON US INITIATIVE REGARDING BONN GROUP PROJECT ON CONSULTATIONS AND PAPER FOR QUAD DINNERS. BOTH BRITISH AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT US INITIATIVE WAS, AT LEAST FOR UPCOMING QUADRIPARTITE DINNER, OVER-AMBITIOUS AND EXPRESSED GENERALLY SIMILAR VIEWS THAT PAPER FOR DINNER WOULD BETTER BE ON LINES OF AN ANNOTATED AGENDA WITH EMPHASIS ON WHAT COULD BE LEARNED FROM RECENT EVENTS TO HELP GUIDE CONDUCT FOR FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF INFORMATION FROM FRENCH EMBASSY HERE ON APRIL 14 THAT AMBASSADOR WORMSER HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS ON THE SUBJECT FROM PARIS, TRIPARTITE
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AMBASSADORIAL MEETING HELD TUESDAY, APRIL 15 FOR FOLLOW-

UP DISCUSSION ON US INITIATIVE MADE IN BONN ON MARCH 19. AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND BRIEFLY REVIEWED US PROPOSAL AND IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO IT AND REQUESTED BRITISH AND FRENCH VIEWS. AMBASSADOR HENDERSON RESPONDED THAT THE AMERICAN INITIATIVE WAS GENERALLY WELCOMED BY LONDON. THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT THE BONN GROUP SHOULD TRY TO CONCERN ITSELF NOT ONLY WITH THE DAY-TO-DAY WORK, WHICH OF COURSE WAS IMPORTANT AND VERY TIME-CONSUMING, BUT ALSO WITH LONGER-RANGE POLICY MATTERS. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT THE QUAD DINNERS WOULD PERHAPS BE MORE USEFUL IF THEIR DISCUSSIONS WERE BETTER FOCUSED. HOWEVER, US PROPOSAL WAS SO AMBITIOUS THAT IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO CARRY OUT, AT LEAST FOR THE UPCOMING QUADRIPARTITE DINNER IN MAY. HENDERSON EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAD NO BASIC OBJECTION TO THE INITIATIVE BUT SIMPLY THOUGHT THAT IN VIEW OF THE TIME AVAILABLE AND THE LIMITED RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE BONN GROUP IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE THE SET AIMS. CONSEQUENTLY, PERHAPS AS A CONTRIBUTION TO MAKING THE QUADRIPARTITE DINNER MORE USEFUL, EACH AGENDA ITEM FOR THE DINNER COULD CONTAIN A SHORT ANALYSIS WHICH, SPECIFICALLY POINTING OUT THE PROS AND DIFFICULTIES OF THE ITEM, WOULD SERVE AS SPRING-BOARD FOR MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION.

2. AMBASSADOR WORMSER SAID THAT THE FRENCH GENERALLY SHARE THE POSITION SET OUT BY AMBASSADOR HENDERSON. THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT STEPS WERE NEEDED IN ORDER TO MAKE THE QUADRIPARTITE DINNER MORE EFFICIENT, BUT THE US INITIATIVE WAS TOO AMBITIOUS. THERE WAS THE PROBLEM OF THE LIMITED MANPOWER AVAILABLE. IF THE STATE DEPARTMENT INITIATIVE WERE AGREED, WORMSER SAID, THE RESULT WOULD BE THE PRODUCTION OF A CUMBERSOME DOCUMENT WHICH HE DOUBTED THE MINISTERS WOULD HAVE TIME TO READ. THEREFORE, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO TRY TO FIND A SOLUTION ALONG THE LINES OF A SHORT PAPER WHICH WOULD CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING:

- A) A BRIEF EXPOSITION OF THE PROBLEMS WHICH AROSE DURING THE LAST 6 MONTHS (THE PERIOD SINCE THE LAST QUADRIPARTITE DINNER) AND WHAT LESSONS ARE TO BE LEARNED THEREFROM;

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- B) IN AN EFFORT TO FORESEE PROBLEMS WHICH MAY ARISE IN THE NEXT 6 MONTHS, A LISTING OF QUESTIONS AND POSSIBLE UPCOMING DIFFICULTIES; AND
- C) FOR EACH ITEM ON THIS LIST A SHORT PAPER OF ABOUT ONE AND ONE-HALF PAGES WHICH WOULD SERVE AS POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR THE MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION OF EACH ITEM.

3. AMBASSADOR WORMSER THEN RAISED THE MATTER OF HOW THE GERMANS WOULD BE APPROACHED ON THIS OVERALL MATTER. AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND RESPONDED THAT, AS HE HAD INDICATED ON MARCH 19, THE US WOULD NOT RAISE THIS WITH THE GERMANS UNTIL A TRIPARTITE POSITION HAD BEEN AGREED. HE SAID THAT SINCE THE FRG HAD ALWAYS SHOWN GREAT INTEREST

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 06106

IN THE QUADRIPARTITE DINNERS IT WAS LIKELY THAT, IF THE PROJECT WERE PRESENTED AS A MEANS BY WHICH THE DINNERS COULD BECOME MORE EFFECTIVE, THE FRG WOULD NOT BE LIKELY TO OPPOSE SERIOUSLY AN ALLIED PROPOSAL.

4. AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE PROJECT, DURING WHICH AMBASSADOR HENDERSON EMPHASIZED HIS BELIEF THAT THE "CHECKLIST FOR THE FUTURE" (POINT B OF AMBASSADOR WORMSER'S PRESENTATION) WAS A PARTICULARLY GOOD IDEA, AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND INDICATED THAT IN AN EFFORT TO

ACHIEVE SOMETHING FOR THE MAY QUADRIpartite DINNER HE
WOULD REPORT THE FRENCH AND BRITISH POSITION TO
WASHINGTON RECOMMENDING AGREEMENT TO PROCEEDING ON LINES
SET OUT BY AMBASSADOR WORMSER.

5. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE
DISCUSSION WITH THE TWO AMBASSADORS THAT THE BRITISH AND
FRENCH ARE NOT WILLING TO ENTER INTO THE TYPE OF EXERCISE
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OUTLINED REFTel C. THERE WAS AGREEMENT, HOWEVER, THAT
SOME SORT OF INITIATIVE WITH THE SAME AIMS AS THE US
PROPOSAL WOULD SERVE ALLIED INTERESTS. POSSIBILITY
OUTLINED BY AMBASSADOR WORMSER (PARA 2) SEEMS PROBABLY
THE MOST WE WOULD BE ABLE TO GET AT PRESENT AND, IF
ANYTHING IN ADDITION TO REGULAR AGENDA WORK IS TO BE DONE
FOR THE MAY DINNER, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE DEPARTMENT
AGREE TO PROCEEDING ON THESE LINES. UPON RECEIPT OF
AGREEMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT, ALLIES HERE WILL PROCEED
QUICKLY TO MAKE APPROPRIATE PRESENTATION TO FRG.
HILLENBRAND

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